12.58 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(I) Need to develop Airport at Hubli and Bellary and rescind the Decision of Closing down air strip at Mysore, Karnataka

[English]

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI (Bellary): The development of airports at Hubli and Bellary and some other places in Karnataka State requires to be accorded due importance as it would help improve the air network in the State in particular and add to the overall development in general. After much persuasion by the State Government, sometime in late 1980s, the three towns, Hubli, Mysore and Bellary which were having air strips were connected to Vayudoot Feeder air line service. Recently, it has come to the notice of the State Government that the air strip at Mysore is almost closed down and the matter is again being taken up with Central Government. It is necessary to reverse such a decision. Because the State has only three cities where there are regular air services by Air India and IndiaAirlines, the air network in the State needs to be expanded and it is necessary that adequate funds are earmarked for this.

Hence, I urge the Central Government to look into the case.

(II) Need to Initiate Dry Land Agricultural System in Bolangir, Orissa

SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PATTANAYAK (Bolangir): Bolangir district of Orissa experiences marginal rainfall annually. This affects the agriculture system, which is the main stay of the common people. In the absence of irrigation facilities and proper water management system, the existing land mass is turning into waste land. Due to continuous drought like situation, people are forced to migrate to neighbouring areas for earning livelihood. In order to improve the Water Management System and increase the sustainability of agricultural pattern, the Dry Land Agricultural System should be initiated by Central Dry Agricultural Institute in this region without further delay. The dry land agriculture system will ensure better living condition in this region.

(III) Need to provide stoppage of Koval Express at Arkonam Railway Station, Tamil Nadu

SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM (Arkonam): Arakonam Railway Station in Tamilnadu is important for many reasons: firstly, Kanchi was a great Kingdom of Pallavas and secondly, this is surrounded by Kanchipuram on the one side and Tiruthani on the other side. Both these places are famous for manufacture of silk cloth, handloom sarees and dhoties.

The merchant community travel daily from here to Coimbatore. Arakonam is also having the biggest naval air station in the whole of Asia.

Moreover, Tirupathi and Tiruthani situated on either side of Araknoam Railway Station are famous places of pilgrimage.

Therefore, I request the hon. Minster of Railways to see that the Kovai Express running between Madras and Coimbator stop at Arkonam Railway Station.

(IV) Need to Negotiate with the Government of Russia for Setting up a super thermal Plantin South Canara, Karnataka

PROF. V. VENKATGIRTI GOWDA